MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

1 MAY 1987

Egypt

President Husni Mubarak explained his decision to close PLO offices in Egypt during a Labor Day speech broadcast by Cairo radio, and he predicted that the "fragile unity" achieved at the Algiers PNC will collapse after a while. Mubarak said his rift with the PLO began before the PNC session when he was "annoyed" by certain "strange" statements on Egypt issued by Fatah officials Salah Khalaf and Khalil al-Wazir. The president indicated that he was not impressed by other PLO denials of these statements, noting that the PLO tends to make "haphazard and contradictory" statements which are slanted according to the capital in which they are issued. This "indisciplined and irresponsible" behavior damages the PLO's image in the eyes of the Egyptian people and of those foreign circles with whom Egypt is making efforts on the PLO's behalf.

Turning to the PNC resolution on Egypt, Mubarak criticized the PNC's reaffirmation of support for Egyptian "nationalist" forces as an attempt to classify the Egyptian people into nationalists and traitors, and he stressed that the Palestinians are mistaken if they think they can talk to the Egyptian people and not the state. As for Egypt's response, Mubarak stressed that he had merely complied with the PNC's desire to break relations with Egypt, noting that he listened to what the Palestinians said and did nothing more than implement their resolution. The president said he does not hold PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat personally responsible for all this because 'Arafat is a "good" man "whom I still respect despite all that has happened." Mubarak linked the PNC stand on Egypt with "pressure" to reconcile with Syria, adding that Syria, Libya and a third country are "behind this."

The president also expressed displeasure over remarks to the Egyptian delegation at the PNC by a "senior party official," who urged Egypt to abrogate the Camp David agreement and claimed that he could solve Egypt's economic problems. Mubarak added that he wants to tell this person, "without mentioning his country," that Egypt knows the Arabs "better than you do."

On internal affairs, the Egyptian leader expressed regret over the low electoral turnout in Cairo and Suez, noting that only 200,000 people out of an electorate of 1.2 million voted in Cairo, a figure which he described as "shameful." Nevertheless, Mubarak said the voting was free and honest, asserting that those who described the elections as a "massacre" for democracy were making excuses for their own failure.

Israel

The continued existence of the National Unity Government is important for Israel's national interest and it would be irresponsible to throw the country into the "whirlpool" of elections, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated in an interview with Jerusalem radio on his return from France. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres responded by stressing that even if someone wants to prevent elections, this should still not hamper an examination of the possibility for peace talks, the radio reported. As for the reports about him meeting with King Husayn, Peres told the radio that "people are constantly leaking, provoking Jordan into denying this," and he added that "these actions are hampering the peace process and are turning our moves into something lacking seriousness." An even sharper comment was provided by Peres' office, which stated that the report of a Peres-Husayn meeting in London is part of a campaign of "rumor and unfounded speculation whose only purpose is to torpedo the peace process," the radio noted.

Syria

A 1 May article in the Damascus *Al-Thawrah* denounced current "provocative" NATO maneuvers in the Mediterranean as "clear proof of an aggressive policy," Damascus radio reported. Nevertheless, an earlier commentary by the radio spoke of increasing signs "confirming the existence of possibilities for action regarding the issue of just peace in the Middle East."

DRA-Pakistan

DRA military sources cited by Kabul radio announced that the Pakistani warplane shot down on 29 April was one of two F-16's which had entered Afghan air space over Paktia Province. The aircraft was downed by DRA "air defense forces" over the Khost district after the Pakistani planes ignored a warning to leave DRA air space, the radio said, adding that the DRA summoned the Pakistani charge d'affaires to protest this "blatant violation" of Afghan air space.

The downing of the Pakistani plane followed a Soviet spokesman's warning to Pakistan over its "escalating armed pressure" on Afghanistan, as reported by TASS 28 April.

Iran

Criticism of USSR — A Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by Tehran radio deplored the Soviet call for an immediate end to the Iran-Iraq war, asserting that this is an attempt to perpetuate the Saddam Husayn regime and ignore its "crimes" against Iran.

Relations With Syria — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati stressed the need to strengthen relations with Syria during a meeting with visiting Oil Minister Ghazi al-Durubi, Tehran radio noted. Agreements concluded during Al-Durubi's visit provide for Iran to export one million tons of free crude oil to Syria, while the latter will purchase another two million tons, IRNA reported.

Lebanon

The Iranian Embassy in Beirut denied an *Al-Shira'* report that an Embassy employee has been abducted by kidnappers who seek

to exchange him for Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite, Voice of National Resistance radio reported. *Al-Shira'* said the Iranian is being held by "party-members" in an apartment outside Beirut, AFP noted.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

South Asia

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Pakistani F-16 Shot Down Over Paktia Province

LD301742 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Text] Dear compatriots:

Please pay attention to an important new report which has just reached us:

The BIA State Committee has obtained an accurate report from the DRA Armed Forces sources that yesterday, 9 Sowr 1366 corresponding with 29 April 1987, two U.S. made F-16 aircraft, belonging to the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, entered DRA air space in the region of Paktia Province. The Air Force and Air Defense Forces of the DRA Armed Forces were immediately alerted to the violation by the Pakistani aircraft and warned them that they were violating DRA air space. However, the pilots of the aircraft paid no attention to the warning and continued their aggressive flight over DRA territory. As a result, one of these aircraft, flying over Khost major-district, was shot down by the Air Defense Forces of the DRA Armed Forces.

At 1200 hours today, the charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, was summoned to the DRA Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the director of the First Political Department of this ministry handed him the following protest note:

Yesterday 9 sowr 1366 corresponding with 29 April 1987, two F-16 aircraft belonging to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Air Force entered DRA air space in area of Paktia Province. Since such an action is regarded as a blatant violation of DRA air space and is contrary to all standards and accepted norms of international law, the DRA Air Force and Air Defense Forces were forced to act. As a result, one of these aircraft was shot down while flying over Khost major-district.

Despite repeated objections by the DRA authorities, this country continues violating our airspace.

Once again we point out that by embarking on such provocative actions, the Pakistani authorities are increasing tension between the two countries. The responsibility for the dangerous consequences of this rests on the Pakistani authorities and they will be held responsible for the political outcomes of such provocations.

Afghan Rebels Down Soviet Sukhoi-25 Fighter

LD301017 Tehran IRNA in English 1004 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Text] Islamabad, April 30, IRNA — Afghan Muslim mujahidin in a series of recent operations have downed a Soviet Sukhoi-25 fighter in Konarha Province and killed or wounded tens of Soviet troops in Badakhshan Province.

In another 24-hour battle, Muslim mujahidin also repelled a joint Soviet-Afghan attack in Badakhshan Province, inflicting tens of casualties.

The joint forces also lost two tanks and left a large amount of munitions behind which was seized by the mujahidin. Six of the mujahidin guerrillas were martyred and 10 others injured in the fighting.

In another operation in the city of Ghazni last week, a tank of the joint forces was destroyed and eight Soviet soldiers were killed or wounded.

Meanwhile, *Agency Afghan Press* reported from Paktia Province that 120 forces of the Kabul regime, held by the Muslim mujahidin were released but refrained from returning to Afghanistan and joined the mujahidin.

In another development, the Urdu-language daily *'Jang'* reported that 20,000 agents of the Kabul regime after undergoing seven years of training in the Soviet Union have joined the communists secret police 'Khad'.

The group have received training in espionage and terrorist activities. Experts in Afghanistan issue believe the group would be used in sabotage activities, including bombings and assassination attempts in refugee settlements and other places in Pakistan.

Joint Communique on Visit by CSSR's Chnoupek

LD302218 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 30 Apr 87

["Text" of joint DRA-CSSR communique issued at the conclusion of the 26-30 April official visit by CSSR Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek to the DRA]

[Text] At the invitation of Comrade Abdol Wakil, foreign affairs minister of the DRA, Bohuslav Chnoupek, foreign affairs minister of the CSSR paid an official and friendly visit to the DRA on 26-30 April.

Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; esteemed Haji Mohammad Chamkani, acting chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, and Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers each received Bohuslav Chnoupek, foreign affairs minister of the CSSR during his stay in the DRA.

He also met Mir Amanoddin Amin, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; members of the Economic Consultative Council, and representatives of the private sector.

The CSSR foreign affairs minister laid a wreath at the memorial of the martyrs of the path of revolution.

The foreign affairs ministers of the DRA and the CSSR held talks in a climate of mutual trust and cordiality on subjects of mutual interest and regional and international issues. Both countries' foreign affairs ministers assessed the level of existing relations, and agreed that more possibilities exist for the further development of these relations. Both ministers pointed out that the relations between the two countries have always been based on friendship, understanding and mutual respect. The victory of the 1978 national and democratic revolution constitutes a turning point in Afghan-Czechoslovak relations and prepared the ground

for their further development.

The DRA-CSSR Friendship and Cooperation Protocol, signed in 1981 in Prague, laid the foundation for the comprehensive development and new quality of the mutual relations between our countries. Following the spirit of this valuable document and other protocols and agreements, which cover broad spheres, the development of political, economic, cultural and other forms of cooperation has always existed between the DRA and the CSSR. they assessed the results achieved and discussed new and specific possibilities for the further development of cooperation between the two countries.

The Afghan side, while expressing satisfaction with the existing cooperation between the two countries, pointed out its all-round support for the active foreign policy of the CSSR based on a strengthening of peace and (?socialism), a reduction in international tension, and the prevention of military confrontation in Europe and throughout the world.

The CSSR foreign affairs minister again stressed the solidarity of the people and government of the CSSR with the people and government of the DRA, and particularly expressed his profound appreciation for the national reconciliation policy, which creates real and just conditions for the peaceful life of the Afghan people, and plays an important part in the consolidation of security in the region. He expressed full support for the honest efforts of the DRA leadership aimed at a peaceful solution for the situation concerning Afghanistan, the basic condition of which is an end to all forms of foreign interference in the internal affairs of the DRA.

He praised the constructive and flexible stand of the DRA at the Geneva talks between the DRA and Pakistan, conducted by the envoy of the UN secretary general.

During the visit, both countries' foreign affairs ministers signed a cooperation protocol, as well as an agreement between the DRA and CSSR governments in the public health and medical science fields.

The talks between the two countries foreign affairs ministers once again showed that they have a common view on international issues. Both countries' foreign affairs ministers expressed the concern of their governments over the complexity of the international situation, which has been created as a result of accumulation of weapons, particularly nuclear weapons, and actions by the imperialist and military forces of the United States and NATO.

They stressed the need for concentration and speeding up of efforts of all states for disarmament and their active efforts for a world free from nuclear weapons and violence.

Both countries' foreign affairs ministers emphasized that it is necessary that all countries observe the principles of national independence, sovereignty, equality, [word indistinct] nonuse of force, nonviolation of borders and territorial integrity, peaceful solution of the conflicts, and noninterference in other countries internal affairs.

They expressed the determination of both sides to strive toward cooperation with other states, for creation of an all-round system of international peace and security, and to assist in expansion and deepening of international cooperation in all spheres in the interest of establishing such a system.

Both ministers announced their full support for the USSR's program for the elimination of nuclear weapons and other types of mass destruction weapons by the end of the current century. They pointed out the extraordinary importance of the USSR's proposals in Reykjavik, Prague, and Moscow, aimed at radically reducing and eliminating nuclear weapons and preventing of the militarisation of outer space.

They highly appreciated the recent USSR proposal on signing a seperate agreement on the elimination of the Soviet and American medium-range missiles in Europe, and keeping only 100 of these missiles by both sides, in the Asian part of the USSR and on U.S. territory.

They welcomed the Soviet proposal to eliminate at the same time Soviet and American operational [word indistinct] missiles in Europe, and discussion on these missiles located in the European part of the USSR and on U.S. territory. They expressed their support for the fruitful discussion on resolving the [word indistinct] weapons in Europe, including [word indistinct] missiles in the framework of multilateral talks based on the proposal by the Warsaw Pact states, signed in Budapest on 2 [month indistinct] 1986 on [word indistinct] armed forces and strategic [word indistinct] from the Atlantic to the Urals.

They meanwhile stressed the importance of the proposals by the Warsaw Pact states for a complete ban on and elimination of chemical weapons.

The proposals by the Mongolian People's Republic and the GDR for the creation of a nuclear weapons-free zone on the borders of the Warsaw Pact states and NATO, and the creation of a chemical weapons-free zone in Central Europe have, in their view, a noticeable value for strenghtening trust and improving the international situation.

Both countries' foreign affairs ministers stressed their firm belief in the need and importance of strengthening peace and security in the Asian and Pacific regions. They stressed that the time has come to jointly seek a political solution to conflicts, and to reduce military confrontation including nuclear confrontation, in this part of the world. The significant and special steps to achieve these goals, in their view, are the constructive proposals presented by the highest representative of the USSR in Vladivostok for the creation of the pillars of an international security system in Asia and the Pacific.

Both countries' foreign affairs ministers also expressed their support for the proposals of the Mongolian People's Republic not to use force among Asian countries and in the Pacific Ocean; the efforts by the governments of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Democratic Republic of Laos, and People's Republic of Kampuchea for changing Southeast Asia into a region of peace, stability and cooperation; and the initiative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and that country's proposals to

transforming the Korean peninsula into a zone free from nuclear weapons.

They expressed their full support for the proposals made by the six-countries-group in Delhi and the Delhi Declaration on principles for a world free from nuclear weapons and violence, which was signed in November 1986 between M. Gorbachev and Rajiv Gandhi.

Both countries' foreign affairs ministers assessed the Middle East situation, the root problem being the denial of the right of Palestinians. In their view, the way to resolve this problem comprehensively, justly, and permanently, is to hold an international conference with participation of [word indistinct] of the PLO as the true and legal representative of the people of Palestine.

Both countries' foreign affairs ministers, having expressed their concern over the Iran-Iraq war, demanded an end to this war as quickly as possible by political means. They condemned the hostile action of the United States against Nicaragua and expressed their solidarity with the heroic struggles of the Nicaraguan people.

They discussed the need for the urgent elimination of apartheid in South Africa, and expressed their full support for the stand of the (?African frontline countries). They also demanded independence for Namibia according to the UN plan.

Both countries' foreign affairs ministers welcomed the results of the eight session of the heads of state or governments of nonaligned countries held in Harare, which is the best manifestation of the positive and increasing role of the Nonaligned Movement in connection with peace and war issues, and the struggle for restructuring a just and democratic international economic system.

They agreed that the United Nations represents a powerful means of protection in consolidating peace and international security. They stressed the great importance of further expanding this international relations organization.

Both countries' foreign affairs ministers expressed their profound satisfaction at the visit and the results of their talks.

CSSR Foreign Affairs Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek expressed his thanks for the hospitality shown to him and his delegation during their stay in the DRA, and invited comrade Abdol Wakil, the DRA foreign affairs minister to pay a friendly and official visit to the CSSR. Comrade Abdol Wakil accepted the invitation with thanks.

Chnoupek Holds News Conference

LD010824 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 1 May 87

[Text] Kabul, April 30, BAKHTAR — Bohuslav Chnoupek, minister of foreign affairs of Czechoslovak Socialist Republic participated in a press conference held here and replied to the questions of domestic and foreign journalists about the results of his stay in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

Replying to the questions of domestic and foreign journalists, Czechoslovak's foreign minister apprised the audience of the relations between the DRA and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the assistance of his country to the DRA after the April revolution of 1978.

He also explained to the domestic and foreign journalists about the results of his visit, his impression about the policy of national reconciliation in Afghanistan, the bellicose policies of the reactionary and imperialist circles headed by Washington administration.

He spoke highly of the results of his talks held with Najib, general secretary of the PDPA CC, other party and state leaders of the DRA. Czechoslovak's foreign minister also described his talks positive and tremendously useful for the ever-further consolidation of the relations between the DRA and Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

Chnoupek Departs 30 Apr

LD301820 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Text] Comrade Bohuslav Chnoupek, CSSR minister of foreign affairs returned home this morning. He had come to Kabul at the head of a delegation for an official and friendly visit to the DRA, at the invitation of Comrade Abdol Wakil, member of the Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee and the DRA minister of foreign affairs. At Kabul airport the CSSR foreign minister and his accompanying delegation were seen off by Comrade Abdol Wakil; deputy ministers; a number of the officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Bohuslav Hanč ambassador and extraordinary representative of the CSSR in the DRA; and Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev, ambassador and extraordinary representative of the USSR in Kabul.

Defense Minister Analyzes Pakistani AWACS Threat

BK301616 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Text] The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, has said that the government will take all possible steps to meet the threat posed by the American decision to equip the Pakistan Air Force with AWACS. He said government is now studying the various options open to it. Mr Pant was replying to a 2-day debate in the Rajya Sabha on the working of his ministry. The defense minister expressed serious concern over reports that AWACS will be leased to Pakistan and the aircraft wil be flown by foreign pilots. Mr Pant said AWACS is not a simple surveillance aircraft, but a complete weapon system capable of aiming at targets accurately. If AWACS are deployed on Indian borders, they can keep a watch deep inside our country. Mr Pant said the United States is justifying supply of AWACS to Pakistan on the ground of protection against raids from Afghanistan. But the geographical situation between two countries is such that the ground radars can do the surveillance of the airspace. The defense minister shared members concern over the latest $1.7 billion American military aid to Pakistan. Mr Pant said it is a formidable package and India cannot afford to ignore the threat it poses. He said adequate measures have to be taken so that we are not caught unawares.

Referring to the United States-China-Pakistan linkage which became more pronounced last year, Mr Pant said government's policy is to normalize relations with its neighbors. He hoped that Sino-Indian negotiations on the boundary dispute will continue and bear fruit.

Answering points raised by members on the Indian Ocean, the defense minister said over the last decade military presence in the zone has increased rapidly. It is a matter of direct concern to us. Mr Pant congratulated members for appreciating the higher allocation for defense and assured them that the money will be spent with adequate control. He assured the members that defense research will get due importance and there will be no laxity in the security of the country.

Janata Party Criticizes Gandhi on Corruption

BK300728 Hong Kong AFP in English 0702 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Text] New Delhi, April 30 (AFP) — India's main centrist opposition party has charged Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi with having lost the moral right to rule in the aftermath of scandals over alleged corruption in his government.

The Janata (People's) Party said Wednesday that Mr Gandhi's "continuance in power would be a threat to the country's unity and integrity," flinging back a charge often voiced by the premier against opposition members.

"Corruption in high places has become rampant, jeopardising national security," the party said in a resolution adopted after a meeting of its executive in Bangalore, southern India, newspaper reports said here Thursday.

The meeting coincided with a nation-wide opinion poll conducted by the independent Operations Research Group (ORG) which showed that a majority of Indians felt corruption was on the increase.

And three out of every four persons polled felt corruption had risen since Mr Gandhi became premier, *The Times of India*, which commissioned ORG, said. ORG interviewed over 2,000 adults in 32 cities.

The Janata Party, which ruled India from 1977 to 1979 during the only period that Mr Gandhi's congress has been out of power, said it would organise a week of nation-wide protests against corruption beginning May 18.

"The time has now come to galvanise the nation once again for a battle against corruption," the party said in a statement in Bangalore, the captial of southern Karnataka — the only one of 24 states which the Janata rules.

Charges of corruption against the government have increased since allegations this month that kickbacks had been paid on two key overseas defence contracts.

Defence Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh was forced to resign after ordering a probe into an alleged 24-million dollar kickback on a West German submarine contract.

The Swedish radio reported earlier this month that the arms maker Bofors had paid five million dollars to ruling party politicians and defence officials to clinch a contract for a complete field artillery system.

The Janata said it "strongly feels that the prime minister has lost his moral authority to rule" as "the credibility of his government has sunk to its lowest."

Janata General Secretary Yeshwant Sinha, however, said the party would not demand his resignation as "this is not the opportune moment."

Party members apparently felt demands for Mr Gandhi's resignation should wait till "more revelations" are made on defence deal kickbacks.

The Bharatiya Janata (Indian People's) Party and the Lok Dal (Masses Party) have asked Mr Gandhi to step down. The BJP is now holding demonstrations asking people to "Remove Rajiv, Save India."

SRI LANKA

LTTE Massacre Leader Killed in Ambush 29 Apr

BK301115 Colombo LANKA Puwath in English 1014 GMT 30 Apr 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, April 30 (LANKA PUWATH) — A leader of the LTTE gang of terrorists which slaughtered over 160 persons, the large majority of them innocent civilians was killed last night by homeguards at Kantalai in the island's Trincomalee District.

The Media Centre in Colombo told LANKA PUWATH that home guards ambushed and killed an LTTE terrorist leader going under the assumed names of Hassan or Kutti. Kutti had actively participated in the massacre of civilians in Kituluttuwa, Wan Ela, [as received] and Gerunewa.

The ambush had been laid for some time after receipt of valuable intelligence reports. A few terrorists who were with Kutti were wounded and ran away into the forest.

The home guards recovered from the scene a .38 revolver with 21 rounds of ammunition, army uniforms and hand grenades.

Two rolls of electric wire and plans for other attacks on villages were also found on Kutti.

At Vasavilan, Jaffna yesterday ground forces attacked and destroyed LTTE strong points, mortar and machine gun positions and ammunition depot which exploded as a result of the fire directed on to them. LTTE terrorist casualties are believed to be high.

Meanwhile ground patrols in the Jaffna Peninsula are continuing and the terrorists are evading any confrontation with the security forces.

In the Mannar District last evening Sri Lanka Navy captured a boat with 13 youths and a large haul of TV cassette decks, radios and gold aboard it. The boat had two 15 hp engines and one 8 hp engine fitted to it. The boat has been impounded and the youths taken into custody.

Witness Says Army Kills 19 Tamils as Revenge

BK301730 Hong Kong AFP in English 1726 GMT 30 Apr 87

[By Barry Parker]

[Text] Pattithidal, Sri Lanka, April 30 (AFP) — Sri Lankan security forces massacred 19 Tamil civilians and burnt down dozens of homes here in reprisals for a landmine explosion which killed eight soldiers, witnesses and relatives of the dead said Thursday.

Tamil peasant Konanan Ulaganathan told *Agence France-Presse* how he returned home from church Sunday to find the bodies of his wife, his five-year-old daughter, eight-month-old son, his mother, his sister, his elder brother, his sister-in-law, their five children, his wife's sister and her three children.

He said they were riddled with bullets and several had been burnt. Standing weeping outside the gutted shell of his mud wall hut, the thirty-year-old Mr. Ulaganathan said: "I wondered why I did not die with them."

He found his wife's identity card in a partially burned Bible among the debris and broke down. Later he picked up a clump of grey hair which he said was his mother's and had escaped the flames. charred human bones were nearby.

A village woman, Marimuttu Ganeshepillai, said she hid in bushes about 25 metres (yards) away and watched horrified as about 15 members of the security forces shot all 16 people. Palm branches were then heaped on some of the victims and set ablaze.

A few hours earlier eight soldiers had been killed when their South African-built armoured personnel carrier hit a landmine about one mile from this isolated village of 900 people in north-eastern Trincomalee district.

Mrs. Ganeshepillai said she was with some of the family of 16, who were reading the Bible when the soldiers arrived in the village.

"I tried to persuade them to run away. They said they were praying and hoped the army was not going to do anything."

Mr. Ulaganathan's brother and his brother's 15-year-old son were shot first in a hail of fire outside one of the family's two huts, she said.

"Four to five soldiers then entered the house and the women were screaming for a long time and I thought they were being raped.

"They then shot into the house killing the women and children, one or two staggered out and died," she said.

Lawyer and joint secretary of the Trincomalee Citizens' Committee, Subashini Varthan, said: "If anything happens to the security forces, civilians are dealt with."

Two other people were missing, presuemd dead, and a third person was shot in the nearby villages of Palathoppur and Palatahadichenai Sunday following the arrival of security forces.

Pattithidal was virtually deserted after the attack and some 100 houses were burnt down in the three villages.

French doctor Elisabeth Szumilin and nurse Jezequel Genevieve, both working in the isolated area for the international aid organisation Medecins Sans Frontieres, said they saw 16 bodies at Pattithidal before they were buried.

In Muttur, the nearest small town about five miles (eight kilometres) away, two or three Tamils had been hit with rifles by members of the security forces, Mrs. Varathan said. "It has become the normal pattern. I don't blame any of the high officers,

they make the effort to find out what happened," she added.

Sunday's massacre was being reported to the army in Trincomalee Thursday.

The citizens' committee, which includes members of all the local communities, Tamil, Sinhalese and Moslem, has documented numerous cases of revenge attacks in recent weeks.

Three Tamils were killed at Chelvanayagapuram on April 17 in apparent reprisals for the massacre of 126 bus passengers by Tamil separatists earlier that Good Friday. The post-mortem says they were killed by "unidentified persons," Mrs. Varathan said.

On April 19, 10 men were taken from a Tamil refugees camp just north of Trincomalee and a 12-year-old girl raped, according to witness reports gathered by the committee. The whereabouts of the 10 men is still not known. On April 22, dozens of huts were burnt down and another 10 people arrested at Sungankuli, Mrs. Varathan said. The previous day 15 Sinhalese had been killed by Tamil militants in the Kantalai area east of Trincomalee.

Three Moslems were shot in the area recently by militants who accused them of being police informers. Villagers from Pattithidal denied knowing that militants had planted a landmine nearby and said if they had known they would have told the police because they knew the security forces would take reprisals.

Jaffna Council Offers Swap for End to Air Raids

BK301604 (Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in Tamil 1330 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Text] The joint council of the Jaffna citizens councils [as heard] has informed the government through a letter that it is ready to hand over the number of Tamils it wants to kill to the army if it receives assurance of the cessation of the air raids and shelling attacks. This council has informed that the number of Tamils which are contemplated by the government are ready to die at the hands of the army.

Through another letter, the council has informed Sri Lankan Prime Minister R. Premadasa that during the international year of shelter, this year, houses in Jaffna are being destroyed while in all other parts of the country houses are being constructed, and that Jaffna citizens are in dire need of bunkers to save themselves from the attacks. The council has asked the Sri Lankan prime minister to extend financial assistance from the international housing fund to build bunkers instead of houses.

Tamil Radio on Indian State Aid for Tamils

BK291424 (Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in Tamil 1330 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Text] The Tamil Nadu government headed by M.G.R. [Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran] has allocated 40 million Indian rupees for providing essential medicines, food, and cloth to the Tamil people of Eelam who are affected by the economic embargo imposed by the Sri Lankan Government. These supplies will be sent to the Eelam Tamils through the relief and other rehabilitation organizations in Tamil Nadu. This was announced by the Tamil Nadu food minister, Panruti S. Ramachandran, in the Tamil Nadu legislative assembly yesterday. The pathetic condition of the Tamil people in Eelam today was debated in the Tamil Nadu assembly. Many opposition members who took part in the debate asked the Indian Government to intervene directly in the Sri Lankan problem. The food minister, who spoke while answering the debate, said Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran has consented to allocate 40 million Indian rupees to provide essential medicines, food, and cloth to the Tamil people who are affected by the Sri Lankan Government's economic embargo. He said the outcome will depend upon the tendency of the two parties at the talks. [sentence as heard] He added from the beginning the Sri Lankan Government has been acting on the basis of race, religion, and language. The ideas expressed recently by the Sri Lankan prime minister, Ranasinghe Premadasa, reflect the true colors of the Sri Lankan Government. Premadasa is in favor of the majority Sinhalese. His statement shows that he does not consider the Tamils as the citizens of his country. He said the Sri Lankan Government, which is incapable of finding out those responsible for the recent bomb blast in Colombo, has been acting in such a way as to put the blame on somebody and to take revenge upon the Tamil people. The Sri Lankan Government has been trying to find a military solution totally by using the talks as a dilatory tactic and a recess. Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran has brought this to the notice of Prime Minister Gandhi. Such tendency of the Sri Lankan Government will cause major disasters. The people of that country should find a solution to this problem. The freedom fighter organizations like the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students have been in the arena fighting against the fascist behavior of the Sri Lankan Government. Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa has said that his government will get help from other sources. [One should] realize the condition of the countries that received such assistance. Panruti S. Ramachandran also explained that the history of the world teaches us that the freedom fighter organizations have not been subdued by the defeats at one or two places. He also said the Sri Lankan Government should change its ways for the security of its country and democracy and for the welfare of the Tamil people as well as the Sinhalese people.

The independent member, Balachandran, who spoke earlier in the debate said that Sri Lankan Government forces have undertaken indiscriminate brutal attacks on men, women, children, and old people. The member of the Republican Party of India, Tamilarasan, said bombing raids are being continued in all the Tamil areas and human rights have been violated.

Athulathmudali: Tamil Chief's Remarks 'Racist'

BK291745 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1718 GMT 29 Apr 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, April 29 (LANKA PUWATH) — Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran is trying to do publically what he has been doing in private all this time. He is the main source of cash and weapons for the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of

Tamil Eelam] to buy arms, said National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali addressing a press conference he held tonight for foreign correspondents at his residence in Colombo.

He said that while Mr Ramachandran was the main source of supply to the LTTE, the EROS [Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students] gang of terrorists was receiving funds from those on the periphery of Marxist groups. Not world Marxists.

He said the Tamil Nadu attitude towards Sri Lanka, was that of a big area bullying a small area in the world.

Referring to the Tamil Nadu chief minister's statement that he was sending aid to the Tamils on humanitarian groups, Mr Athulathmudali said there was no food shortage in Jaffna.

He had heard of starvation in Tamil Nadu from the refugees who have returned to Sri Lanka, so it may be good for the authorities in Tamil Nadu to concentrate on their own population. And we will certainly see that all citizens of this country including terrorists are well fed, the minister of national security said.

The Jaffna hospital was well stocked with drugs and medicines which were drawn regularly from government medical stores in Anuradhapura, capital of the north central province.

The minister of national security said that according to his reading of the Indian Constitution, foreign affairs was the responsibility of the central government of India.

The Tamil Nadu government was trying to usurp the powers of the central government of India. [sentence as received]

Asked how he thought Tamil Nadu would try to get across 'aid' to Jaffna, he said smuggling was a possibility.

If the object of the aid was humanitarian, then it should be given to Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims and others.

There were victims of all three communities in the two recent massacres committed at Kitulotuwa and Pettah.

In the Pettah bomb blast there were five Tamils and 15 Muslims killed, while there were a few Tamils and Muslims among the 122 killed by terrorists at Kitulotuwa.

Mr Athulathmudali said the Tamil Nadu statement congratulated the terrorists for committing the two atrocities. The Sri Lankan Government will compenstate all victims of the terrorist killings, irrespective of race.

Chief Minister Ramachandran's statement was racist, said the Sri Lankan minister of national security.

The minister said there were radio intercepts to prove that EROS was responsible for the bombing at Pettah with some support from the LTTE.

Photographs of two EROS terrorists wanted for the bombing had been made public today.

He totally ruled out the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna [JVP]. There was not a [words indistinct] evidence to show the JVP had any involvement with the Pettah bomb blast.

The JVP had a racist anti-Tamil stance. This group was, however, responsible for the raid on the army camp at Pallakelle, Kandy, recently.

The minister said the terrorists were receiving arms discharged by ships in the bay of Bengal and smuggled into the eastern province (Batticaloa).

Foresees No Political Solution

BK300300 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Text] The Sri Lankan national security minister, Mr Athulathmudali, says he does not foresee any political solution to the island's ethnic problem. He also expressed the possibility of resuming air strikes against Tamil militants. He said 120 civilians and 35 soldiers were killed during 5 days of air and ground raids which aimed at punishing Tamil militants for a car bomb killing 113 people last week. He also claimed about 200 Tamilians in northern Jaffna peninsula have surrendered in the past 3 weeks.

3 Arrested Near Colombo for Carrying Explosives

BK301025 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0944 GMT 30 Apr 87

["OANA/POOL" item]

[Text] Colombo, April 30 (LANKA PUWATH) — The Kotahena police have arrested the driver of a scootershaw taxi and two others about four miles from Colombo's city centre after he was allegedly found transporting explosives, police told LANKA PUWATH today.

They said that a spot road check made by two police constables out on patrol, at Premananda road, Kotahena, had revealed the scootershaw was transporting 400 grams of gelignite and 500 grams of potassium.

The three arrests followed.

SLFP Statement Calls Attacks 'Rude Shock'

BK301019 Colombo SUN in English 21 Apr 87 pp 1, 9

[Text] "At a time when peace talks to settle the ethnic crisis are going on, the action of the terrorists in infiltrating the Polonnaruwa district should be a factor which must be taken into serious consideration by everyone, [no closing quotation mark as published] said the Leader of the SLFP, Ms Sirimavo Bandaranaike, while on the subject of the Good Friday massacre at Kitulutuwa.

She went on to state:

"The terrorist murders of innocent civilians at Kituluttuwa on Good Friday, while a cease-fire was operating, must come as a rude shock not only to our people, but to all responsible persons and organizations in the entire world community who have given thought to the problems in our country.

"We express our deepest sympathies to the families that have been affected by this inhuman outburst of terrorism; and at the same time we would like to record our utmost horror that even after the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] had publicly derided the ceasefire, the Government has been so much lacking in vigilance, care, and competence that it has once again exposed innocent Sinhala people to a terrorist onslaught with impunity.

"It seems about time that the international community itself stretched a positive and merciful hand to guide our country over to a period of peace, democracy, and the role of law permeating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. [no closing quotation mark as published]

Meanwhile the Secretary General of the Tamil United Liberation Front in a statement from Madras has expressed horror and revulsion at the senseless and indiscriminate violence at Habarana last Friday.

"Whoever perpetrated this heinous crime were anarchist and reactionary forces who deserve the unequivocal condemnation of the entire community", Mr Amirthalingam said.

The United Lanka People's Party President A. C. Guneratne in a press release too has condemned outright the Good Friday massacre calling it an inhuman act of terror.

Khamene'i Addresses Conscript Officers in Tehran

LD301313 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Excerpts] According to a report of the Central News Unit, President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, during the graduation ceremony of the conscript officers at the 01 ground forces training center in Tehran, awarded promotion to 10 commanders and officers of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran that were issued by the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces. During these ceremonies, the president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, gave a speech in which he referred to the point that the threats made by global arrogance in the Persian Gulf constitute flagrant bullying. He emphasized: Our nation and combatants wish to teach other nations and governments of the region that one should stand against bullying in order to bring the bully to his knees.

While stressing that the only way to end the war is to remove Saddam from the region, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council said: Our nation and combatants should employ all their might and concentrate their efforts to continue the holy defense and eliminate the obstacles responsible for a lack of security in the region.

Referring to the reasons behind the aggression of Saddam's regime against Iran and the fear of global arrogance in the face of the Islamic revolution, the president said: Saddam's aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran is not only a limited border violation, rather, it is an extensive international aggression and conspiracy against the Islamic revolution and its gains. Its objective is to crush the resistance and resolve of the people of Iran who wish to determine their own fate and oust the hands of hegemonists from their country.

The president added: Our objective in the war is to defend our values, to defend the independence of nations, and to confront the attitude of hegemony. This is something that the superpowers are not prepared to tolerate and that is why they are supporting the main agents responsible for a lack of security in the region.

In referring to the valuable role of the Iranian Armed Forces in guarding the system of the Islamic Republic as well as their valuable role in the imposed war, the president emphasized while addressing the conscript officers: It is a great honor, at this sensitive juncture and at a time when our Armed Forces have created so many epics, to wear a military uniform. You will serve in a force that has created the greatest epics of the century. You must prepare yourselves for self-sacrifice at the service of the Islamic revolution and for the sake of the country and the people.

In conclusion, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, in referring to the promotion of the 10 commanders and army officers, described their services and those of other commanders as well as those of the courageous Armed Forces personnel and paid tribute to them for their devotion and efforts.

The report adds that during these ceremonies, the president first inspected the units standing in the parade courtyard. Later, after the ceremony of hoisting the flag and after the graduates took the oath, the president awarded prizes and shoulder straps to the outstanding conscript officer graduates of the 01 training center. [passage omitted]

In conclusion, the report adds: A group of commanders from various units of the armed forces and officials of the army's religious-political departments were also present at this ceremony.

Links Fall of Saddam, End of War

LD301836 Tehran IRNA in English 1816 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 30, IRNA — Only the downfall of Baghdad regime would end the Iraqi-imposed war and restore peace and security in the region, said President Khamene'i here today.

The head of the Supreme Defense Council (SDC) made the remark at a ceremony during which he presented 10 senior officers with promotions approved earlier by Commander-in-Chief of the Islamic Republic Armed Forces Imam Khomeyni.

In another development today, the president attended an epaulette giving ceremony of conscript soldiers of the ground forces.

In this ceremony, the SDC head noted that the Iraqi-imposed war is not an ordinary border clash, but it is a defence of the values cherished by oppressed masses throughout the world.

A nation should be able to stand on its feet and determine its fate without the interference of foreign powers, Khamene'i said. "Aggressors do not want to accept an independent nation, to the extent that they even enter international waters in an apparant bid of oppression," he noted.

Khamene'i said that resisting the foreign powers is possible and has been proved by the eight year experience of the Iranian nation, after the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Kuwaiti Request for Ship Escorts Shows 'Weakness'

NC301041 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0445 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Unattributed commentary from the "Developments on the Fronts" feature]

[Text] Recently Gennadiy Gerasimov, press director of the Soviet Foreign Ministry [title as heard], announced that his country would soon place three of its tankers at Kuwait's disposal for 3 years, a period which could be extended. In addition, AFP has reported that on the basis of the accord in this regard, these tankers can also be escorted by the Soviet Navy if need be.

The Kuwaiti officials' request for such assistance clearly indicates the utter servility and great weakness of this diminutive shaykhdom, which has resorted to these unprincipled measures. The move also demonstrates the motivation and provocative goals of the satanic powers and arises from the Ba'thist Iraqi regime's unlawful behavior in attacking commercial vessels and creating

an atmosphere of tension in the region. Meanwhile, the resistant nation of Iran has proven through its pervasive presence in the area that it will protect the gains of its revolution and will never be intimidated by the enemies' plots.

Past experiences in the war clearly bear this out. Numerous conspiracies engineered by the clique of oppressive powers, which have been foiled by the fortitude and Divine strength of the Iranian nation, should have convinced the world of the steadfastness of the Islamic Republic in continuing its rightful struggle. Despite imperialist plots to create a crisis in the waters of the region, Iran has complete control of the Persian Gulf and is prepared to answer even the most subtle move by foreign powers with crushing ripostes. In addition, the strength and readiness of the Islamic Republic's Navy, which exercises complete vigilance on maritime traffic, and the missile brigade of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in the region confirm the defense capability of the Islamic Republic.

Despite all this, if the enemies of the revolution are so simple as to wish to set fire to the azure waters of the Persian Gulf, they should know that there can be only one result of such a step: a fatal conflagration enveloping all their interests in the region. Iran is in complete control of the Strait of Hormuz and the northern Persian Gulf. The victorious, epic Val-Fajr-8 operations, a major factor to consider, clearly tilted the naval balance in favor of the Islamic Republic, so that in the present situation Iran is considered the sole and undisputed power of the region, and it is obvious to all that the Islamic combatants are fully prepared to resist all possible threats. Hence, in the event of an escalation of a crisis in the Persian Gulf, the first to be crushed would be the reactionary leaders of the region. In any case, with this stance by the region's reactionary leaders, observers know full well who to hold responsible for the creation and exacerbation of a crisis in the Persian Gulf. These leaders have given lavish financial and military assistance to Baghdad and so are on a par with the Iraqi rulers who have ignited the flames of war. They are trying to extend the battlefront by depicting the situation as gravely serious and of great significance. By attempting to internationalize the war, they are, according to their own wishful thinking, preparing to save the defeated lord of the Qadisiyah.

Despite all efforts by world oppression to distort the reason for our hallowed defense, the Islamic combatants see the present situation realistically and are proceeding to forge the political future of the region by eliminating the Ba'thist Iraqi regime. This future will be based on security and justice, a real security and lawful justice impossible without the final victory of the Islamic combatants..

The month of Ramadan is one of worship, and what worship can be higher than a holy war in the service of God — a holy struggle which is at its most sensitive point, which with divine succor, the eternal heroism of the Islamic combatants, and your resilience and perseverance, O heroic nation, will finally end the war imposed on Iran by Iraq. Yes, Ramadan is the month of steadfastness, fortitude and introspection. Introspection is necessary for greater fortitude and steadfastness, until the last person has shed the last drop of blood, until his last breath!

Foreign Ministry Condemns Soviet 'Allegations'

NC010509 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 1 May 87

[Text] The Central News Unit has reported that, in response both to the latest stance adopted by the Soviet officials on the imposed war, especially in meetings with the Arab League delegation currently in Moscow, as well as the Soviet Union's insistence on an end to the war, without any reference to which side is responsible for initiating the conflict, our country's Foreign Ministry spokesman said: Recently, the Soviet Union has adopted a stance against Iran on the current regional issues, including the developments in the Persian Gulf and the imposed war, which shows evidence of their opportunistic attempts to lobby for influence or pacify U.S. allies in the region.

He stated further: The recent allegations made by some Soviet officials in their meeting with the Arab League delegation regarding the need for an immediate end to the war — in view of the facts that the Soviet Union has been Iraq's major arms supplier in the war and that some of the countries represented in the Arab League's so-called peace delegation have been accomplices in initiating and continuing Saddam's aggresion with their assistance in the form of manpower, cash, and materiel — expose the true face of the proclaimers of peace.

He added: The Soviet viewpoint propounded in the presence of the foreign minister of the Iraqi ruling regime; that is, that this war should immediately end regardless of who initiated it, is not just a justification for the aggression and inhuman crimes of the Saddam regime against the Muslim revolutionary nation of Iran during the course of the war. It also very conveniently ignores the repressive measures by the Iraqi ruling regime against the people of its own country, measures which are epitomized by the chemical bombing of the Kurd-inhabited areas in northern Iraq.

The spokesman of our country's Foreign Ministry said: These allegations indicate that the Soviet Union, despite its slogans based on the interests of nations and the struggle against imperialism, is in fact safeguarding its own interests and attempting to prevent the imminent downfall of the Saddam regime.

In conclusion, the Foreign Ministry spokesman stated: The Islamic Republic of Iran will not move even one step back from its principled stance on the Iraqi regime. All countries, including the Soviet Union, should halt their military and economic assistance to the Iraqi aggressors if they are really desirous of peace, so that with the downfall of the Aflaqi Ba'th party of Iraq peace and tranquillity may return to the region.

Soviet Leaders 'Close Eyes' To Iraqi 'Crimes'

LD301658 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1110 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Station "Political Review": "Gromyko's Recent Remarks About the Imposed War"]

[Text] While meetings between the protectors of the Iraqi regime were taking place and their trip to Moscow was going on, Soviet President Andrey Gromyko, in a meeting with members of the

Arab League, once again stressed the necessity of ending the war. He said the war should be ended as soon as possible, regardless of who is responsible.

Meanwhile, as the weakness and lack of ability of the Iraqi regime and the superiority and success of the forces of Islam become apparent, the protectors of the Iraqi regime adamantly try to find a way to end the war and save Saddam from the difficulty he has placed himself in. They use various excuses, such as the harmful effects of the continuation of the war and the need to establish peace between the two Muslim countries, and so forth. On 12 November 1980, simultaneous with the advance of Iraqi forces in our country, Saddam declared: "We are satisfied with our situation and the results we have achieved. Our plans have worked out so far. Iraqi forces have advanced 20 to 110 km inside Iran. Those who now seek an end to the war and want peace did not then consider the start of aggression and occupation of Iranian soil harmful and contrary to the interests of the two Muslim nations of Iran and Iraq.

Eight months after the start of the aggression, Tariq 'Aziz, Saddam's deputy — who is at present in the company of the Arab league on a peace-seeking mission, as it were, in Moscow — declared: Five small Irans would be better than a unified Iran. We will support the uprising of the various peoples in Iran and put all our effort into breaking up Iran. In addition to the Iraqi armed forces' aggression against our country and the occupation of vast areas in the west and north of the country, the Iraqi regime has committed terrible crimes such as bombing residential areas, firing missiles at non military towns, attacking commercial vessels, and using chemical weapons, none of which conform with the most basic international laws. In some cases, international circles have even been forced to condemn the Iraqi regime.

Considering all these issues and the clear and irrefutable depth of the crimes of the Iraqi regime, how can the Soviet leaders close their eyes to all these crimes and call the ending of the war — which, considering their remarks, would be nothing but a way out for Saddam — more important than all its other aspects? How can the Soviet president, during his meeting with Tariq 'Aziz and the Arab League delegation, declare that, with or without condemning its instigator, the Iran-Iraq war should end as soon as possible? Yet the Soviet leaders constantly strive to pretend that they are impartial on Iran-Iraq and do not support either of the warring sides. Considering these facts, the Soviet leaders should be asked: Is overlooking an act of aggression and injustice, not finding the injured party, and not forgetting the crimes of the oppressor not in itself a form of taking sides with the oppressor? Does this approach not in effect encourage the aggressor and pave the way for more crimes elsewhere in the world? Does this approach not contradict slogans such as "fight against the aggressor and crime, and strive to attain the rights of the world oppressed and deprived, which for many years Moscow has proclaimed and taken as its own and its followers' mission? Do these remarks not go against the UN Charter?

In any case, regardless of the answers that the Kremlin leaders will give to these questions, the Islamic Republic of Iran is determined to continue the war until its just aims are achieved, relying on God's infinite power and the unshakable will of the Iranian nation. To this end, it will not alter its rightful demands and conditions.

Velayati, Syrian Oil Minister Discuss Fall of Saddam

LD301731 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Text] The Syrian oil minister this afternoon met and conferred with Velayati, our country's minister of foreign affairs. In this meeting, the Syrian oil minister, referred to his talks with officials of the Islamic republic of Iran and their outcome and then he reviewed mutual relations and regional issues, as well as the plots that are being hatched against the two countries on a global level. He said: Relations between Iran and Syria are based on principled foundations, and in spite of the conspiracies of foreign countries, these relations are being strengthened day by day. The Syrian oil minister, in connection with the imposed war said: I am sure that this war will end with the downfall of the Saddam regime and the formation of a government chosen by the Iraqi nation, and the three countries of Syria, Iraq and Iran can then attend to the battle on the main front, that is the battle against Israel, in unison.

Velayati, in this meeting, while referring to the importance of relations between Iran and Syria and the plots that are being carried out to deliver blows to the cooperation and collaboration between the two countries, emphasized the necessity for strengthening and further expanding mutual relations, and said: God willing may the victory of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the war, and the establishment of a correct government and one that is based on the wishes of the people of Iraq, become the basis for tripartite relations between Iran, Iraq and Syria, and may our solidarity in the region increase and perforce act as a great obstacle to the conspiracies against Islamic and Arab countries in the region.

Oil Export Agreement Signed

LD301200 Tehran IRNA in English 1120 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 30, IRNA — Visiting Syrian Oil Minister Ghazi al-Durubi and his Iranian counterpart Gholam Reza Aqazadeh inked an agreement at the end of their last round of talks here Wednesday. According to the agreement Iran will export one million tons of free crude oil to Syria.

According to a separate agreement, Syria will also purchase two million tons of Iranian light crude oil during the current year.

Syrian Minister Al-Durubi heading a delegation arrived here on 18 April.

Reports, Communique Detail Fighting With Iraq

Iraqi Kurds Carry Out Raids

LD301245 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Text] According to a report from the IRGC General Staff Command during the past few days, the forces commanded by

the Ramazan Headquarters, along with the forces of the Democratic Party of Iraqi Kurdistan, carried out a series of operations against a military column along the Dahuk-Mangish highway, setting ablaze a number of enemy vehicles and killing or wounding a number of enemy troops. The same forces carried out a victorious operation between Sarsang and 'Amadiyah, succeeding in occupying the Girdah Sur base. The same report adds that artillery fire set ablaze the Iraqi town of Direuk, the Ba'th Party's organizational headquarters, the police station, and a number of military vehicles.

Another report says that the Zionist enemy deployed infantry, armored, and air forces to break the siege of Kani Masi but faced matchless resistance and steadfastness from the combatants, and after suffering heavy casualties and losses, was forced to retreat. According to this report, the Iraqi Kurdish forces engaged the enemy forces intending to destroy the village of Shamkhan in 'Agra, and succeeded in killing several soldiers of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime's army, among whom was a second lieutenant.

The Iraqi Kurdish forces have also carried out an infiltration operation inside the town of 'Imadiyah, succeeding in setting ablaze the town's security organization as well as the battalion headquarters guarding it. During the attack on the battalion headquarters, 8 enemy soldiers were killed and another 19 were wounded. Among the dead were one major and a second lieutenant.

Another report from the Ramazan Headquarters says that since the start of the operations aimed at destroying Iraqi Kurdish inhabited hamlets, 126 deceived members of that regime's army have surrendered to the Iraqi Kurdish forces, among whom was the commanding officer of Dirluk company, (Muhammad Kanisarli).

More on Kurdish Activities

LD301908 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Text] According to a report from the Central News Unit, the alertness and resistance of a group of peshmerga of the KDP, neutralized the conspiracy of the Iraqi regime to destroy the (Sham Khan) village in the north of that country, and 70 of the local agents of Saddam's regime in the region gave themselves up.

According to this report, within the framework of the implementation of the policy of evacuating and destroying villages in order to quash the resistance of the Kurdish people of Iraq, on 6 Ordibehesht [26 April], a group of mercenaries belonging to the Ba'th Party ruling Iraq intended to destroy the village of (Sham Khan) situated in the Agrah region of Sulaymaniyah province. But they met strong resistance from the KDP peshmerga and before they could take any action, they were dispersed, leaving seven killed and a number wounded. Second Lieutenant Nazar Husayn from Al-Mawsil was among those killed.

This report also states: Following this clash, 70 mercenaries of the locality gave themselves up to the Peshmerga of the KDP along with their arms and equipment. According to the report of the Central News Unit, another group of KDP peshmerga of Iraq, on 26 April executed lightening attacks on the site of the security organization, several outposts responsible for laying roads, and the gasoline station of the city of Al-'Amadiyah. After inflicting many casualties on the Zionist regime ruling Iraq, all returned safely to base.

The Ramazan headquarters report also states: The base of the Babarni Battalion in Al-'Amadiyah was subjected to the lightning attack of the forces of Iraq's KDP, and in the course of this attack 8 of the Saddamists were killed and 19 of them were severely wounded. Among those killed was an armored unit's major.

Communique No 2822

LD301653 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 30, IRNA — Two foreign commercial ships were intercepted and searched by the Iranian navy in the Hormuz Strait Wednesday, but were allowed to set sail since no Iraq-bound cargo was found on board, announced Joint Staff Communique Number 2822 here Thursday.

The communique said that an enemy helicopter, attempting to rocket attack positions of Iran's Muslim forces in the Sar Dasht theatre, in Northwestern fronts, at 15:55 GMT Wednesday, mistakenly dropped its chemical bombs on Iraqi troops, being confused by heavy anti-aircraft fire of the Muslim defenders.

Also, three Iraqi warplanes violated Sar Dasht air space at 08:45 GMT Tuesday and chemically bombed the vicinity of Mawout City, northeastern Iraq.

Reconnaissance flights of Iraqi helicopters were checked by Iranian forces in Garmab and Panjwin region, western fronts.

Exchange of artillery fire continued in the western operational theaters, raging somewhat more heavily in Qasr-e Shirin region. An Iraqi munitions dump and four individual and group bunkers were destroyed and a group of enemy soldiers were killed or wounded in this region.

Movements of Iraqi motorized columns in Sumar operational region and Jassan-Badra and Helaleh-Badra supply axes were totally checked by Muslim forces, who also inflicted substantial casualties and losses on the enemy in Talayyah and Kushk, southern fronts.

An Iraqi command vehicle as well as eight bunkers were destroyed and a number of Ba'thist troops were killed or wounded when their engineering activities came under artillery fire of Iranian gendarmerie forces.

Navy Commodore Elaborates on Gulf Security

LD301323 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1105 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Text] Yesterday, Commodore Malekzadegan was interviewed on radio and television. He commented on recent developments in the Persian Gulf region and the role of the navy in safe-

guarding the security of this strategic area. During his interview, he referred to Navy preparedness, which is unprecedented in his lifetime.

He said: With 80 vessels equipped with advanced and complex systems, the navy has attained the readiness to safeguard the security of our Islamic homeland's waters, the 16 islands, and the country's vital resources on the continental shelf. In present conditions, by destroying the enemy's navy, Iranian naval vessels have exhibited their high quality. The great capability of this force enabled our country's naval vessels to stage the great Zulfaqar exercises, with high quality. During the exercises, the Navy's warships and helicopters coordinated with Air Force fighters and increased their operational capacity.

In addition to vessels, our Navy possesses the most complex coastal defense missile system. Regarading the quality of this type of missile, all of which are mobile, Commodore Malekzadegan said: These systems cannot be described as a particular type. [as heard] They are the most effective missiles, and are installed in various places. They are ready to carry out the commander in chief's order to stage operations in the region.

While the Islamic Republic of Iran is the strongest naval power in the region, it has repeatedly declared that safeguarding Persian Gulf security is the responsibility of the countries in the region. For this reason, Iran has constantly declared its readiness to cooperate with regional countries on this.

To this end, last year Iran proposed to the UN secretary general cooperation among Persian Gulf littoral states — without the Iraqi regime — to prevent the continuation of mischief and unrest in the region. The implementation of this plan would prevent Iraq from carrying out its aggressive policies: by threatening and bullying Persian Gulf littoral states and attacking commercial vessels, the Iraqi regime contributes to the unrest in the region. Moreover, in line with the deceitful policies of the Iraq regime, Kuwait asked the superpower to help. But diplomatic and military circles note the Iranian Navy's Capability for controlling and safeguarding the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea region in the current war. According to reports received, despite the propaganda about lack of security in the Persian Gulf, shipping circles have now accepted more shipping activity in the region.

In any case, despite the fact that the Islamic Republic has safeguarded security in the Persian Gulf, the region's countries should note that the unrest created in the region — mainly by Iraq — would bring nothing but economic and spiritual harm to the region, and that following the aggressive policies of the Iraqi regime would do nothing but add to their problems.